

This Week @ First

Worship & Music

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 AM, connect with us on [YouTube](#) (find the bulletin [here](#))!

Compassion and Social Justice

Compassion and Social Justice continues their ongoing efforts to serve our neighbors each month. During the holiday season this will be especially meaningful as we acknowledge our blessings and share the love of Jesus with others. There are two opportunities this coming month for you to join with your church family to serve.

First, our bread boxing shift will be Friday, Nov. 1, from 9:45 AM to 12. Please consider joining Sue Scribner and Debbie Gibson for a morning of fellowship and service. [Sign up here](#).

Second, on Sunday, Nov. 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, First Presbyterian members will serve the meal to our homeless neighbors at Grace Mission. We have two volunteers right now but could use more. [Sign up here](#).

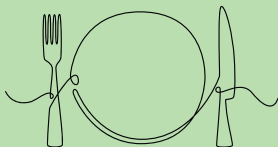
“
Be devoted to one another
in love. Honor one another
above yourselves.
—Romans 12:10
”

Office Volunteers

We are in need of office volunteers from 12–2 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If interested in volunteering, click [here](#) to view the dates that we are in need of volunteers and either fill out this [form](#) or email kelby@oldfirstchurch.org and indicate what day you would like to volunteer.

Save the Date: Stewardship Potluck Dinner

The Stewardship and Care and Outreach Teams will host a potluck dinner on Sunday, November 17, in the Westminster Room. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for an evening of learning, discerning, and fellowship! Additional details to follow.



Spiritual Formation

Sunday School—Youth

All youth are invited! Grades K–5 in room 306. Middle and High School Students in room 301. 9:30 AM each week. A nursery will be available starting at 9:15 AM.

This Sunday our youth group (grades 6–12) will gather in the Westminster Room following service for some fellowship, fun, and games.

“Feasting on the Word” Lectionary-Based Bible Study

Calvin Room and via [Zoom](#), 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM.

Each week this class will gather to engage and discuss selected texts from our Lectionary readings.

Adult Inquirer’s Class

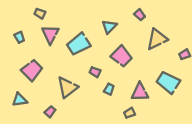
Westminster Room and via [Zoom](#), 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM.

This week: the Supreme Court — recent and upcoming decisions.

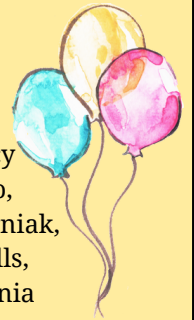
Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC continues its work of calling a new pastor. We are at the stage of reviewing potential candidates, inviting them to apply through the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) system, and learning more about those who have responded. Although the process is not a speedy one, it is heartening to see the variety of call-seekers in the PCUSA and to learn more about how people are serving congregations in diverse areas.

The members of the PNC — Donna Barber, Barbara Busharis, Ruben Diaz, Martha Kutter, Sue Scribner, Ann Westall, and Stan Williams — are available to hear your questions and concerns. Please understand that we cannot comment specifically on the process as it relates to individual candidates, but your thoughts are welcome.



Happy Birthday!



Our Incredible November Birthdays: Karen Bickley, Nancy Bivins, Sarah Hendry, Carolyn Herrington, Corinne Bruno, Carla Connors, Rochelle Davis, Frank Dorsey, Miriam Gurniak, Jane Hughes, Matthew Jennings, Kerry Laird, Hannah Nalls, Margy Norman, Stephen Sandon, Meredith Strange, Virginia Thomas, Lauchlin Waldoch, Sabrina Wright, Charlie Johnson, Theia Groll, and Pierce Withers.

To submit information to be included in the newsletter and/or the Sunday bulletin (as space permits), please use [this link](#), which will take you to an online form. You can access the form directly through Breeze, as well. Thank you!

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Published on October 25th, 2024



Pastoral Note

This is the third pastor's note in a series on worship. The shape and form of Presbyterian Worship are the result of the traditions from which it is drawn. The first Christians began celebrating Jesus' resurrection every Lord's Day by gathering to proclaim the Word and celebrate the Sacraments. Over the centuries, the Church developed ways of keeping time, with many adopting the feasts and fasts of Israel that Jesus kept. As a result, at certain times, in particular places, and with material gifts—we participate in God's plan for worship.

We begin the calendar year by focusing on Christ's incarnation through the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons. In Advent, we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Christmas encompasses the Nativity and Epiphany of the Lord. After Epiphany, we celebrate Jesus's Baptism and Transfiguration. Christ's death and resurrection are commemorated in Lent and Easter seasons, including Ash Wednesday, the Great Three Days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil includes the Resurrection and Ascension of the Lord and the Day of Pentecost. After Pentecost comes the celebration of Trinity Sunday, All Saints Day, and the Reign of Christ. The pattern of the Christian year keeps us centered in Christ as we seek to proclaim the story of our faith, grow as Jesus' disciples, and serve Christ's mission.

We worship in the sanctuary of our church. It occurs when believers commune with the risen Lord. Through the presence of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit, we gather as people of God. The place where we gather contains the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. It includes a space for reading and proclaiming the word, a font or pool for Baptism, and a table for the Lord's Supper. The arrangement of these symbols of Word and Sacrament conveys their relationship to one another and their centrality in Christian worship.

Our offering of material gifts in worship expresses our self-offering as an act of gratitude for God's grace. The practice of offering also reflects our stewardship of God's good creation. In the Old Testament, the Ark, linen vessels, oil and incense, musical instruments, grain, fruit, and animals were used for worship. In the New Testament, the Gospel, Jesus used nets, fish, jars and ointment, towels and basins, water, bread, and wine in his ministry. We have come to consider water, bread, and wine as symbols of God's self-offering, as an act of gratitude for God's grace.

Worship considerations are open to the local context. The order of service allows for great freedom to contextualize the liturgy to regional, ethnic, and generational cultures. Congregations are not expected to conform to liturgy with the express purpose of speaking and singing all the right words in the proper order. Yet, liturgy is appropriate to the context, keeping in mind that the aim of worship is the renewal of the vitality of the congregation, worship leaders, and worship ministry teams in the name of the Triune God.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,
by the mercies of God, to present your bodies
as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to
God, which is your spiritual worship.

—Romans 12:1

Rev. Glenn Hodges

Sources:

Book of Common Worship. 2018. Prepared by the Office of Theology and Worship for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Louisville: John Knox Press.

Book of Order 2023-2025: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II. 2023. Louisville: Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

The Companion to the Book of Common Worship, 2003. Edited by Peter C. Bower, Louisville: Geneva Press.